

REMARKS

Claims 9-11 are currently active.

A double patenting terminal disclaimer is enclosed to obviate the double patenting rejection.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 9 as being anticipated by or obvious from DiChiara, Jr. The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendment to Claim 9.

DiChiara, Jr. is for bonding only oxide ceramics (column 2, lines 21, 27, 29-31, 39, 40, 43, 46, 48, 52 and column 8 lines 36-64) or alumina (Al_2O_3) ceramics. DiChiara, Jr. is not relevant to the claimed invention, since it involves different materials in its claims.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-11 as being unpatentable over DiChiara, Jr. in view of Shimo. The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendment to Claim 9.

In the patent by Shimpo- JP 6-256067, only the development of a joining compound is addressed with no regard to the joint geometry. In particular, joint thickness is not addressed. Joint thickness, substantially impacts the amount of joint shrinkage and hence, joint strength and the porosity. Porosity effects the degree of hermiticity, which is also not addressed in JP 6-256067. In JP 6-256067, there is no information related to a joint design and nothing specifically on what is a suitable taper. A joint thickness has to be developed for each joining material and for each ceramic to be joined. Combining DiChiara, Jr's. joining method, that does not specify a joint thickness, with Shimpo's compound has almost no chance of working.

Accordingly, Claims 9-11 are patentable over the applied art of record.

A certified translation of Shimpo is enclosed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 9-11, now in this application be allowed.

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